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DIARY NOTES

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22 July 1955

1. General Bragdon telephoned to inquire about the status of our building and I brought him up to date. He was particularly interested to know whether or not we had hired an architect and I told him, "No." This, of course, is the one thing he thinks we should have done some time ago.

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2. Bob Macy, Bureau of the Budget, was over to talk to me about Projects AQUATONE and [redacted]. There is no question about [redacted] and I don't think there is any question about AQUATONE either; however, he and Mr. Hughes are concerned about the future of AQUATONE. He feels that barring some unforeseen security reasons we definitely should budget for AQUATONE in our Fiscal Year 1957 budget or have the Air Force do it. He also feels that we should look into the possibility of having the Air Force share the cost in Fiscal Year 1956. I told him that I would look into this and discuss it further with him. He spoke quite frankly, as well as confidentially, with regard to the management of this Project. He said that the Bureau had known [redacted] for many years and thought he was an extremely brilliant and able person; however, it did not regard him as a good administrator and hoped that we had some control over the Project to make sure that funds were not being wasted. Told Bob that I thought we could assure him completely on this matter inasmuch as the Administrative Officer, Finance Officer, Logistics Officer, Personnel Officer, etc., who were running it had been selected by me. He seemed to be reassured on this point and I will report back to him on our feelings with regard to the funds for Fiscal Years 1956 and 1957. He suggested that in order to get a better feel of the Project he would like to go out to the test base when and if I should be making a trip. We tentatively decided to do this sometime in September. (I spoke to General Cabell about this. He thought that it would be a good idea and suggested that we go out with him in September to look at the equipment which would then be available for testing.)

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3. Sam Papich reported to me yesterday that the Washington Field Station Chief of the FBI had written a most uncomplimentary report about the difficulty he had in arranging an interview with [redacted]. He said that there was no flap and that he had the thing entirely under control, but suggested that we get in touch with him when someone called us for an interview over here and there were good reasons why we should delay it. I told him that I would speak to [redacted], as well as his secretary, about this and make sure that it didn't happen again.

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